

Dear ZBA and Town Officials,

I am writing regarding my extreme concern with the housing project “The Residence at Darwin Commons” and to call on you as representatives of our community to save us from this monstrosity. My fiancée and I purchased our first home at 27 Darwin Lane just last Fall. We are located right on the edge of the cul-de-sac and envisioned ourselves raising a family in this quiet dead end street.

Shortly after moving in, we were made aware of the possibility that our dreams were under fire, as a money hungry developer had plans to establish a very large condo complex as an extension of our street. At first I thought this was a total joke. It made no sense to me that the town would allow this, or even that a developer would *want* to build off of this street. It is a small dead-end neighborhood – from a purely logical, never mind legal standpoint, it simply makes zero sense.

Now let me be clear, I 100% support the concept of 40B housing and think, in the right location, it is vital to a town’s growth. However, it pains me deeply to see a developer take advantage of the system purely to get a project approved that should never see the light of day. I encourage you to take a drive down Darwin Lane. In the Winter, when cars are parked on the street, there is barely enough space for a small car to get by, never mind an emergency vehicle. That poses a major health risk to my family and all of our neighbors.

On top of the ethical pitfalls that this plan faces, there are also several legal pitfalls. First of all, their application is very much incomplete. Key details are left out including comprehensive professional inspections of the land and surroundings. This project would also push our street past the legal length of a dead end street in Walpole. If they had a separate egress that would potentially change that, but that proposal is not included anywhere in their plans. Additionally, one of the town’s major wells is located on the site. Lastly, the town of Walpole has already reached safe harbor for 40B projects, so to me it is a no brainer to reject this new project proposal.

I bought this house with plans of raising children here. If this project were to go through and my quiet street turned into a traffic ingested thoroughway, I would not feel comfortable or safe letting my children play outside. Losing the top benefit of the neighborhood, I would be forced to seek residence elsewhere. I urge you to please look at this project logically. The decision should be easy. Thank you very much for taking the time to consider these concerns.

Sincerely,

Corey Greenburg